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Chairman: Mr. Bahaei Hamaneh (Vice-Chairman) ..... (Iran)
later: Mr. Benmehidi ..... (Algeria)

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In the absence of Mr. Benmehidi (Algeria), Mr. Bahaei Hamaneh (Iran), Vice-Chairman, took the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 10.15 a.m.

Agenda item 83: The rule of law at the national and international levels (*continued*) (A/64/298)

1. **Ms. Blum** (Colombia) said that the cross-cutting strategic approaches put forward in the report of the Secretary-General (A/64/298) would help to enhance the coherence, quality and coordination of the Organization's policies and activities concerning the rule of law. They would also support priority activities in other areas, such as justice for children, constitutional reform initiatives and transitional justice programmes. At the international level, her delegation welcomed the activities undertaken to promote the development of international law and the implementation of multilateral treaties together with the steps taken to support compliance with international humanitarian law.

2. At the national level, the Organization should continue seeking to demonstrate the impact of its activities on the rule of law in the countries it served. Strengthening of the rule of law at the national level was an issue of particular significance for Colombia. Its policy for consolidating democratic security was aimed at reinforcing territorial control and fostering the rule of law throughout the country; protecting the population against security threats; maintaining legitimate, modern and effective security forces; and combating all sources of criminality. Those actions were being carried out in full compliance with international human rights law. Law enforcement bodies had fostered a culture of respect for human rights, and any complaints of human rights violations by security forces were promptly investigated. Colombia had also made progress in developing a national legal framework that incorporated international norms and standards.

3. In an international context in which democracy prevailed, power must be exercised in accordance with the law. The United Nations had a key role to play in promoting an increasingly comprehensive and effective international legal order.

4. **Ms. Rodríguez Pineda** (Guatemala) said that the United Nations was the organization best suited to assist States in capacity-building and strengthening of institutions. Since 2006 it had been collaborating with her country through the International Commission against Impunity in Guatemala, the establishment of which had reflected an explicit acknowledgement of the fact that Guatemala's democracy faced threats from international organized crime and other clandestine powers that had undermined the institutions responsible for security and the protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms. It had been an act of political courage to recognize that the problem existed and to take decisive action to address it. In its first two years of existence, the Commission had made notable progress in fulfilling its mandate, which included criminal prosecution of high-profile cases, technical training and the promotion of legislation aimed at enhancing the State's capacity to end impunity. The Commission had shown that the last-mentioned goal was indeed attainable.

5. At the international level, a wide range of instruments existed to foster the rule of law, in particular the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, which her Government had recently signed. The great value of the Optional Protocol was that it enabled persons whose rights had been violated to seek justice at the international level if there were no domestic remedies available to them.

6. The Rule of Law Coordination and Resource Group and the Rule of Law Unit played a necessary and important role for the Organization and for individual Member States. Their work was helping to strengthen the rule of law at the international level, and her delegation encouraged them to continue that work.

7. **Mr. Ajawin** (Sudan) said that the objective of the Organization's rule of law activities should be not only to support Member States in achieving compliance with their international obligations and to ensure domestic implementation of international norms and standards, but also to help States build their judicial institutions so as to enable them to carry out those obligations effectively. The United Nations should continue to focus on the interface between the rule of law at the international and national levels, enhancing their mutual dependence and reinforcing nature.

8. The notion of State sovereignty should continue to be the sacred concept upon which the norms of international law were built. If international law was to

be the bedrock for effective multilateral cooperation, all Member States must adhere to the principle of non-intervention as established in Article 2 (4) of the Charter of the United Nations.

9. The binding nature of international norms, conventions and covenants was dependent on the voluntary agreement of States. Subjecting a State to the criminal jurisdiction of an institution of which it was not a member was contrary to the principles of international law. States should not be coerced into ratifying the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, particularly as its reputation as a credible international legal institution had been badly damaged and it was too deformed to be reformed.

10. His Government believed in an international legal system rooted in respect for the norms and practices of international law and supported the role of the International Court of Justice in resolving international disputes. It was therefore deeply concerned by the practices of unilateral bodies that sought to become an alternative to international justice, thereby politicizing it and creating a double standard. The politicization of international justice would surely lead to militarization of international relations, disregard for multilateralism and the erosion of commitment to the Charter and the principles of international law. Any criminal justice system built on selectivity and heavily influenced by political interests would not be able to deliver justice, nor would it enjoy the support of a majority of the international community.

11. The concentration of power in the hands of the Security Council, a body on which only a minority of the world's countries were represented, was an impediment to fairness and justice. Until the Council was reformed to provide balanced geographic representation, the delivery of international justice would remain an illusion.

12. Only when Member States fully respected and supported the functions of the various organs of the United Nations, in particular the important role of the General Assembly, could the Organization work efficiently and effectively and enjoy wide consensus as it took the lead in promoting the rule of law.

13. **Mr. Nega** (Ethiopia) said that respect for the rule of law at the international level was the foundation for the peaceful coexistence of nations and was essential for cooperation among States in meeting global challenges such as climate change. The United Nations should continue to take the lead in promoting the rule of law, taking into account national priorities and strategies. The role of regional organizations in promoting the rule of law at the regional level should also be recognized.

14. International law should be the reflection of common human values and serve as a means to promote universal goals. The United Nations must address the current problems in the international legal order with a view to avoiding uncertainty and fragmentation. To that end, the law-making process at the international level should be improved as part of United Nations reform. As an international legislative body, the United Nations should advance the common interests of Member States and address common concerns. Its main organs, the General Assembly and the Security Council, should take responsibility for follow-up on the implementation of their resolutions and other international legal documents adopted by consensus.

15. It was important to strengthen adherence to the rule of law at both national and international levels as there was a close link between the two. His Government viewed maintenance of the rule of law at the national level as an essential condition for economic and social development and had launched a capacity-building programme aimed at strengthening its justice system and thereby fostering the rule of law and good governance. Ethiopia's Constitution upheld the principle that the international agreements to which the country was a party formed an integral part of its domestic law, and his Government followed through on the implementation of all its international obligations.

16. **Mr. Ayoob** (Afghanistan) said that strengthening the rule of law at the international level was fundamental in addressing global challenges, fighting international crime and terrorism and promoting democracy, human rights, sustainable development, peaceful co-existence and cooperation among States. The United Nations, and in particular the General Assembly, must play a central role in promoting and coordinating efforts to strengthen the rule of law at both the international and national levels.

17. His delegation welcomed the establishment of the Rule of Law Coordination and Resource Group and the Rule of Law Unit and appreciated their efforts to strengthen the coordination and coherence of United Nations rule of law activities. However, more needed

to be done to strengthen the Organization's leadership in capacity-building in least developed countries and post-conflict countries and its assistance to Member States in developing domestic legislation and adapting it to international norms and standards. Such capacity-building was crucial in order to enable countries to fulfil their international obligations effectively.

18. For Afghanistan, the rule of law at the international level was intrinsically linked to the rule of law at the national level. Afghanistan adhered to the rule of law at both levels and was committed to implementing all the international treaties and agreements to which it was a party. In post-conflict societies, establishment of the rule of law was critical to peace and justice. The justice sector in Afghanistan had suffered greatly as a result of more than two decades of war and terrorist attacks. Its physical infrastructure had been demolished and its working capacity significantly weakened, seriously undermining the rule of law. However, with the support of the international community, the Government had made significant progress in restoring and strengthening justice and the rule of law. It had signed several international protocols and conventions, adopted numerous new laws and launched a justice reform process. It had also taken steps to develop the human and institutional capacity of the justice sector; increase access to justice for all, especially women; improve governance; fight corruption; and build strong, capable security forces. Nevertheless, Afghanistan continued to need the support of the international community.

19. **Archbishop Migliore** (Observer for the Holy See) said that the rule of law served as the foundation for a more just society. It must be remembered, however, that law alone was not the aim of efforts to promote the rule of law, as countries too often used laws as a basis for oppression and violence. To speak only of the rule of law without also acknowledging the need for justice would risk replacing the rule of law with rule by law. While primary responsibility for promoting and creating a just rule of law lay with national and local authorities, in a globalized society a set of just rules and laws to govern groups beyond national boundaries was of utmost importance. However, bodies dealing with international law must respect the capacity of individual States and local communities to govern their affairs in a just manner, only intervening when an issue had global consequences or the State or local community failed to uphold the responsibility to protect.

20. The reform of the United Nations and its various bodies, in particular the Security Council and the treaty bodies, was crucial to the promotion of the rule of law at the international level. International treaty bodies that expanded the scope and meaning of treaties beyond their originally agreed content failed to respect the principle of subsidiarity, thus undermining the intent of the treaties and harming their own credibility.

21. International law was of particular importance in the areas of peace and security, economic development and environmental degradation. In the area of economics, the rule of law at the international level had become ever more necessary. The interconnected nature of global business and trade meant that individual nations no longer controlled and regulated their own economies. As the recent financial crisis had demonstrated, failure to properly regulate a single market or commodity could have devastating consequences across the globe. In that connection, the Holy See supported the Secretary-General's efforts to ground the Organization's rule of law work firmly in its development agenda and to highlight the linkages among poverty, legal exclusion and injustice. However, greater effort must be made to reform the United Nations and the various international financial institutions in order to enable them to play their proper role in responsible financial regulation. The Holy See also supported endeavours by States and international organizations to work together to create a fair trade system based on the rule of law that respected the dignity of workers. Rule of law activities must not focus solely on determining the role of markets, but must also take into account the rights of workers and the community.

22. The Holy See and its various organizations remained committed to supporting the rule of law at the national and international levels. To that end, Catholic educational institutions in many countries were providing individuals with quality education in the fundamental nature of law and its proper application, thus contributing to the eradication of corruption, and Catholic organizations around the world were providing physical, psychological and spiritual support to prisoners in order to equip them with the skills necessary to become productive, law-abiding citizens.

23. *Mr. Benmehidi (Algeria) took the Chair.*

24. **Mr. Debabeche** (Algeria) said that the rule of law at the international level was a fundamental pillar of international peace and security. Adherence to the rule of law, particularly observance of the principle of *pacta sunt servanda*, would help move the international community towards a more just and equitable world. Rule of law activities should therefore be strengthened at all levels, including within the United Nations itself. It was time to put an end to the Security Council's encroachment upon the mandate of the General Assembly and to undertake an in-depth reform aimed at ensuring that the methods of work and the powers and functions of the Assembly, a truly democratic organ, were respected. It was also essential to ensure that the law was applied equally to all. Laws should not be applied selectively, as was the case with some resolutions of the principal organs of the United Nations, especially the General Assembly.

25. His delegation welcomed the inclusion of human rights units in United Nations peacekeeping missions. There remained, however, an unacceptable exception in the case of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO), a matter that should be addressed without delay.

26. His delegation also welcomed the Organization's efforts to disseminate information and provide training in international law by electronic means, including the United Nations Audiovisual Library of International Law.

27. **Mr. McInerney** (International Development Law Organization) said that, thanks to United Nations efforts to define and clarify the rule of law agenda in recent years, there had been progress towards unity and agreement on fundamental ideas. The International Development Law Organization (IDLO) was working to transform itself as an organization devoted to meeting the developing countries' needs for assistance in the rule of law field. International norms and standards must be rooted in and harmonized with the broad elements of domestic systems. To that end, rule of law assistance must seek to advance broader socio-economic development in areas such as investment, microfinance, health, the environment, anti-corruption and the judiciary.

28. The rule-of-law development field lacked solid evidence on which to base programming. On the supply side, IDLO was studying experience in building State institutions in post-conflict and post-crisis settings. On the demand side, it had developed a comprehensive research programme on legal empowerment that involved 11 States and was cooperating with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) on country projects. Those two areas were viewed as part of a mutually reinforcing approach; institutional reform must be based on an understanding of the needs of citizens, and ways must be found for existing institutions to support the needs and aspirations of disadvantaged communities. IDLO believed that it would also be beneficial for the United Nations to pursue those two forms of system engagement in a mutually reinforcing manner.

29. His organization supported and sought to contribute actively to the effort to improve the overall effectiveness and coherence of the rule of law work that the Committee was spearheading. It had developed two web-based platforms that responded to that policy imperative and had made a deliberate effort to make the Secretariat aware of those tools; he hoped that the Committee would view them as a useful contribution and would encourage all concerned parties to use and build on them.

30. IDLO research and programming devoted substantial attention to the needs of African States. It was developing a framework for helping the African Union promote the rule of law on the continent and was assisting in the process of constitutional reform in Kenya.

31. Improving the rule of law was eminently achievable through concerted effort by the international community, including Governments, civil society, academics and legal communities. IDLO had enjoyed an increase in membership during the past year and encouraged States to become members.

32. **Mr. Holovka** (Serbia), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that the representative of Albania, by implying, at the ninth meeting of the Committee, the existence of an independent State of Kosovo on part of the territory of a sovereign neighbouring country — the Republic of Serbia — had condoned the illegal concept of unilateral declarations of independence, shown blatant disrespect for international law and further compromised the principle of the rule of law in the region and of regional cooperation to that end. The legality of the unilateral declaration made by the provisional local

authorities in Priština was currently under consideration by the International Court of Justice at the request of the General Assembly. He reminded the representative of Albania that the presence of the European Union Rule of Law Mission in Kosovo (EULEX), to which he had alluded in his statement, had been authorized by Security Council resolution 1244 (1999) and endorsed by Serbia as the host State with which the Mission had a contractual relationship.

33. **Mr. Stastoli** (Albania), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that no State could dictate to another sovereign State the decisions that it should take with regard to recognition of a third State. In his delegation's view, the issue had already been resolved: a third of the Organization's Member States, including Albania, had recognized the Republic of Kosovo and he would refer to that State by its name. He had mentioned Kosovo as an example of the European Union's admirable intervention in the establishment and strengthening of the rule of law. He therefore wondered why the representative of Serbia had reacted so violently since it was one of the countries that had aligned themselves with the statement by the representative of Sweden, speaking on behalf of the European Union, who had referred to the case of Kosovo at the eighth meeting of the Committee.

34. Cases brought before the International Court of Justice, whatever the rationale of their sponsors, concerned issues relevant to all Member States. His Government looked forward to reading the Court's advisory opinion on the Accordance with International Law of the Unilateral Declaration of Independence by the Provisional Institutions of Self-Government of Kosovo and, like many other States, had offered its perspective to the Court in order to facilitate the proceedings. Unlike some other States, Albania had never exerted political pressure or expressed any prejudgement regarding the Court's decision in the case, thereby demonstrating its respect for the Court and for international law.

35. Kosovo's tragic past was well known and documented, along with all the other tragedies inflicted on the nations of the former Yugoslavia that had fought for their independence. While that past would not be forgotten, he was confident that the people of those countries would be able to accept each other as equals and thus to build stable peace and prosperity for themselves and for the region.

Agenda item 165: Observer status for the International Humanitarian Fact-Finding Commission in the General Assembly
(A/64/142; A/C.6/64/L.6)

36. **Mr. Hamaneh** (Islamic Republic of Iran), speaking on a point of order, asked the Secretariat to remind delegations of the criteria for granting observer status to international organizations, without prejudice to the agenda item under consideration.

37. **Mr. Mikulka** (Secretary of the Committee) read out General Assembly decision 49/426 of 9 December 1994, in which the Assembly, at the recommendation of the Sixth Committee, had "decided that the granting of observer status in the General Assembly should in the future be confined to States and to those intergovernmental organizations whose activities cover matters of interest to the Assembly". In its resolution 54/195, the Assembly had decided that, in future, any request by an organization for the granting of observer status in the General Assembly would be considered in plenary session after the consideration of the issue by the Sixth Committee and had requested the Secretary-General to take appropriate measures to bring to the attention of all Member States the criteria and procedures laid down by the Assembly whenever a request was made by an organization seeking observer status.

38. **Mr. Bichet** (Switzerland), introducing draft resolution A/C.6/64/L.6 on observer status for the International Humanitarian Fact-Finding Commission, drew attention to the explanatory memorandum contained in annex I to document A/64/142 and said that Australia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Colombia, Costa Rica, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Guinea, Hungary, Ireland, Kenya, Mali, Montenegro, Netherlands, New Zealand, Panama, Paraguay, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and United Arab Emirates had become sponsors.

39. The International Humanitarian Fact-Finding Commission (IHFFC) had been established in 1991 pursuant to the First Additional Protocol to the Geneva Conventions of 1949. It was a permanent intergovernmental body with its headquarters in Berne; its secretariat had been assumed by Switzerland in its capacity as depositary State of the Conventions and the Additional Protocols thereto. Its main purpose was to investigate allegations of grave breaches and serious

violations of international humanitarian law, but it could act only with the consent of all parties to a conflict and had yet to receive a fact-finding mandate, as there had been no armed conflict in which all parties had accepted its competence or requested its assistance. It was therefore important for IHFFC to have a presence in the forums and bodies in which the terms of conflict resolution and alleged violations of international humanitarian law were discussed. By granting it observer status, the General Assembly would strengthen a mechanism that was created in order to further respect for and implementation of that law.

40. **Ms. Millicay** (Argentina) said that her delegation was a sponsor of the draft resolution because Argentina had accepted the competence of IHFFC and considered its work highly relevant in the context of international humanitarian law.

41. **Mr. Charles** (Trinidad and Tobago) said that when his Government had acceded to the two Additional Protocols to the Geneva Conventions in 2001, it had accepted the competence of IHFFC because of the Commission's efforts to increase awareness of the importance of international humanitarian law. As yet, none of the Caribbean States had felt the need for the Commission's interventions, but they considered that they were part of a global village and that atrocities committed anywhere in the world were committed against them as well. Observer status would enhance the position of IHFFC and demonstrate to Member States the importance of accepting its competence upon ratification of the First Additional Protocol.

42. *Draft resolution A/C.6/64/L.6 was adopted.*

Agenda item 166: Observer status for the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria in the General Assembly (A/64/144; A/C.6/64/L.7)

43. **Ms. Kafanabo** (United Republic of Tanzania), introducing draft resolution A/C.6/64/L.7 on observer status for the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria in the General Assembly, drew attention to the explanatory memorandum contained in annex I to document A/64/144 and said that Antigua and Barbuda, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Congo, Democratic People's Republic of the Congo, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Greece, Ireland, Jamaica, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Mali, Morocco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Portugal, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Senegal, Serbia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Togo and Trinidad and Tobago had become sponsors.

44. The Fund had been created pursuant to paragraph 90 of General Assembly resolution S-26/2, adopting the Declaration of Commitment on the human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS). It was an international organization with intergovernmental characteristics and was mandated to raise funds in order to assist Member States in their efforts to prevent and treat HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria. It had become the world's main source of financing for that purpose and, to date, had committed $16.2 billion to 140 Member States; 95 per cent of its financial resources were contributed by 44 Member States. That funding had covered the costs of treating 2.3 million people for HIV/AIDS and 5.4 million people for malaria and of providing 88 million insecticide-treated bednets. The Fund was therefore a significant source of financing for the implementation of Millennium Development Goals 4, 5 and 6. The granting of observer status would ensure that its strengths and achievements were taken into account in setting objectives for country-level action and would allow it increasingly to align its mandate with the Organization's goals on health and development issues and to support agreed priorities and directions.

45. **Mr. Debabeche** (Algeria) announced that his delegation wished to become a sponsor of the draft resolution.

46. **Mr. Cabouat** (France) said that the Fund had become an independent intergovernmental organization on 1 January 2009 and that France had become a sponsor of the draft resolution because of the Fund's significant financial contribution to the global effort to combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis. Observer status would allow it to work more effectively with United Nations agencies and to follow the General Assembly's debates on relevant issues.

47. **Mr. Bichet** (Switzerland) said that the Fund was the primary multilateral financing institution under Goal 6 of the Millennium Development Goals. It was respected, influential and deserved to have a voice in the deliberations of major international bodies. In signing a headquarters agreement with the Fund in

2004, his Government had acknowledged that it could claim functional international legal personality by virtue of its governance structure and specific role. Switzerland treated it as an intergovernmental organization and provided it with the privileges and immunities normally attributed to such organizations.

48. Switzerland was committed to improving the governance of the United Nations system so that the latter could continue to develop without relinquishing its role as the universal international forum in which major challenges were discussed. His delegation therefore supported the principle of expanding the representation of observers to the General Assembly and further integrating them into its deliberations.

49. **Ms. Millicay** (Argentina) said that her delegation had concerns regarding the non-governmental nature of the Fund and was consulting with the Tanzanian delegation on the matter.

50. **Mr. Tladi** (South Africa) said that no delegation questioned the importance of the Fund's objectives or its relevance to the work of the United Nations. He believed that its request for observer status was consistent with the requirements established in the relevant General Assembly resolutions and decisions and that observer status should be granted.

51. **Ms. Guo** Xiaomei (China) said that her Government had engaged in fruitful cooperation with the Fund and would continue to support its work. However, her delegation was not convinced that it could be characterized as intergovernmental since its membership included non-governmental organizations and individuals with decision-making power. She would remain in communication with the sponsors while awaiting instructions from her capital.

52. **The Chairman** encouraged delegations to consult with each other before taking action on the draft resolution.

53. **Mr. Hamaneh** (Islamic Republic of Iran), speaking on a point of order, said that there appeared to be some uncertainty about the criteria for observer status. He would appreciate it if the Secretariat would circulate a copy of General Assembly decision 49/426 of 9 December 1994 in order to clarify the matter.

Agenda item 168: Observer status for the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region of Africa in the General Assembly (A/64/193; A/C.6/64/L.4)

54. **Mr. Andanje** (Kenya), introducing draft resolution A/C.6/64/L.4 on observer status for the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region of Africa in the General Assembly, drew attention to the explanatory memorandum contained in annex I to document A/64/193 and said that Australia, Benin, Egypt, Finland, Gabon, Ireland, Madagascar, New Zealand, Serbia and Tunisia had become sponsors.

55. The Heads of State and Government of the Great Lakes Region had established the Conference through the 2004 Dar es Salaam Declaration. Its objectives, pursuant to the 2006 Pact on Security, Stability and Development in the Great Lakes Region, included sustainable peace and security, political and social stability, shared growth and development and regional cooperation. In addition to its four thematic areas — peace and security, democracy and good governance, economic development and regional integration, and humanitarian and social issues — it addressed cross-cutting issues such as gender, the environment, human rights, human settlements and HIV/AIDS.

56. The Conference had been founded on the principles of international partnership, regional ownership and national stewardship and received financial, technical, diplomatic and political support from the 28 countries and 10 international organizations or agencies of the Group of Friends of the Great Lakes Region. Observer status in the General Assembly would help it to enhance its objectives through interaction with the wider membership of the Organization and with international organizations and would boost efforts to address global challenges through collective action.

Agenda item 167: Observer status for the International Olympic Committee in the General Assembly (*continued*) (A/64/145; A/C.6/64/L.5)

57. **Mr. Nesi** (Italy) announced that Brazil, Chile, Cuba, Estonia, Finland, Ireland, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Madagascar, Morocco, Russian Federation, Switzerland, Togo and Ukraine had become sponsors of draft resolution A/C.6/64/L.5 on observer status for the International Olympic Committee in the General Assembly.

58. *Draft resolution A/C.6/64/L.5 was adopted.*

59. **Ms. Negm** (Egypt), **Ms. Millicay** (Argentina) and **Mr. Shah** (Pakistan) said that they had joined the consensus on the draft resolution because of the special characteristics of the International Olympic Committee (IOC). However, it should be understood that no precedent had been set with regard to the granting of observer status to an organization that was not intergovernmental in nature.

60. **Ms. Guo** Xiaomei (China) expressed concern at the legal ramifications of the decision to grant observer status to the International Olympic Committee. While her delegation had not wished to stand in the way of consensus, IOC activities during the General Assembly should under no circumstances undermine the interests of the Organization and its Member States and no precedent should be set.

61. **Mr. Hamaneh** (Islamic Republic of Iran) said that his delegation had joined the consensus on the draft resolution because of the role of sport in promoting friendship and understanding. However, the criteria established in the relevant General Assembly resolutions should be observed in the future and a precedent should not be set.

62. **Mr. Nesi** (Italy), speaking on behalf of the sponsors, thanked the delegations that had contributed to the adoption of the draft resolution and said that he had taken note of the positions expressed.

63. **The Chairman** said that in his view, the positions expressed by delegations had not been addressed to the sponsors of the draft resolution and should have been conveyed prior to its adoption so that he could determine the level of consensus. He was grateful to the delegations that had made that adoption possible; realistically, however, it must be acknowledged that a precedent had indeed been set and that similar requests would have to be addressed on a case-by-case basis in the future. The option of taking a recorded vote on a draft resolution was always available.

The meeting rose at 12.10 p.m.